

Andrew Jackson to George Colbert, June 5, 1812, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO GEORGE COLBERT.1

1 Copy. George Colbert was a chieftain of the Chickasaw, who were, in general, friendly to the whites. Mrs. Crowley stated in her affidavit that her captors took her to a Chickasaw town and smoked the pipe of peace with its leading men. She said that George Colbert was there and that she believed the Chickasaw could have rescued her if they had tried.

Nashville, June 5, 1812.

Friend and Brother! I learn from the talk which you have sent to Genl Roberts that the creeks who have been killing our women and children, have passed through your nation carrying along with them stolen horses, scalps, and a white woman prisoner. You tell us that you took two horses from them: Brother, could you not also have taken the woman?

Friend and Brother! You know I am your friend, and the friend of your nation. The United States is also the friend of the Chickesaws; but this friendship will stop if the creeks are suffered to march through your nation to attack our frontier.

You say your nation is a small nation and the creeks are numerous. But what have the Chickasaws to fear from the creeks when the white people are their friends? Do you not remember when the whole creek nation came to destroy your Towns that a few hundred chickasaws aided by a few whites chased them back to their nation, killing the best of their warriors, and covering the rest with Shame? Brother we will do so again if the creeks dare to touch you for your friendship to us.

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Friend and Brother! If you suffer the creeks to pass through your nation our people in pursuit of them may kill the chickesaws through mistake. If your nation suffers any more scalps or stolen horses to be carried through your nation, your Father the President will have reason to think that the chickesaws are about to let go the treaty they have made with him, and take his enemies by the hand.

Friend and Brother! Mark what I tell you! The white people will do no wrong to the Indians, and they will suffer the Indians to do no wrong to them. The creeks have killed our women and children: we have sent to demand the murderers, if they are not given up, the whole creek nation shall be covered with blood: fire shall consume their Towns and villages: and their lands shall be divided among the whites.

Friend and Brother! You tell us you are the friend of the whites. Now prove it to me. Send me the names of the creeks who have killed our women and children: tell me the towns they belong to; and the place where they have carried the woman.

I am your friend and Brother.